



# Iwakuni Veterinary Treatment Facility

## JAPAN PCS REQUIREMENTS & GUIDELINES



The Iwakuni Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF) would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your family to MCAS Iwakuni. We at the Iwakuni VTF understand how daunting OCONUS PCS orders can be for you and your family, and we are here to help.

Whenever families with pets receive new PCS orders, it is an essential first step to review requirements for their pets to accompany their family to their new Duty Station. The USDA APHIS website is a great tool with step- by-step instructions for ensuring that your pet can PCS with you and your family wherever your next Duty Station takes you.

The Government of Japan is considered a Rabies free country and has many requirements that must be completed in the correct order for pets to be imported properly. The steps listed below are the most current and up-to-date guidelines for importing your pet(s) to Japan.

1. **Advance Notification** – The importer must provide advance notification of the animal to be imported to the Animal Quarantine Services (AQS) with jurisdiction over the intended air or seaport of arrival at least 40 days prior to arrival in Japan by fax or mail.
  - If you and your pet are traveling via AMC/Patriot, the Advance Notification is not required.
2. **Individual Identification by Microchip** – Dogs and cats must be individually identified by an ISO compliant microchip. If the animal is not fitted with an ISO compliant (11784 and 11785) microchip, the importer must bring a microchip reader with the pet. The pets must be microchipped on the day of or before their first vaccination.
  - **Exception**– Microchip implantation can occur on the day of or before the second vaccination when the export health certificate, endorsed by APHIS, shows that:
    - The first vaccination was administered prior to microchip implantation, **AND**
    - The animal had a rabies antibody titer of at least 0.5 IU/mL on a serum sample collected on the day of administration of the second vaccination.
3. **Rabies Vaccination** – Dogs and cats 91 days of age and older must be vaccinated at least twice within an approved rabies vaccine.
  - The first vaccination must have been administered according to label recommendations.
  - The second vaccination must be current according to label recommendations and have occurred more than 31 days after the first vaccination and within the effective period of the first vaccination.
4. **Measurement of Rabies Antibody (FAVN) levels** – Dogs and cats must be evaluated for serum rabies antibody level. The animal must have been vaccinated for rabies in accordance with section 3 above.
  - Animals microchipped before or on the day of the first vaccination, the serum sample may be collected on the date of second vaccination or any day until the end of the effective period of the second vaccination.
  - The rabies titer test must be carried out at a laboratory approved by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan. The results of the rabies titer test must be great than or equal to 0.5 IU/mL. The result of rabies titer test is valid for two years from the date of sampling. The laboratory results must be originals (no USDA endorsement needed) or copies with USDA endorsement. No report is needed if the animal is a returning pet that has a valid “Export Quarantine Certificate” with lab results listed within the last two years.



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5. **180 days wait**– Dogs and cats are required to undergo a wait of at least 180 days between the date the sample is collected for the rabies titer test and the date the animal arrives in Japan. If 180 days have not passed before the animal's arrival in Japan, the animal will be quarantined in an AQS facility to make up the number of days remaining in the 180-day wait period. Antibody levels are measured in order to confirm whether the animal has developed immunity to rabies. The reason for the wait is to make sure that the animal has not contracted rabies prior to developing immunity to it as a result of immunization, 180 days corresponds to the incubation period for the disease.
6. **Health Certificate** – Dogs and cats must be inspected by a USDA Accredited Veterinarian and confirmed free of clinical signs of infectious disease including rabies and leptospirosis (for dogs) prior to departure. The traveler needs an Exporter's Declaration and an Export Health Certificate.
  - **Exporter's Declarations (Form A):** Form A is recommended to be used for this purpose. The traveler needs to prepare the Exporter's Declaration with the assistance of an accredited veterinarian. This form needs to be endorsed by APHIS-VS or can be combined with the health certificate as noted in Option 1 below.
  - **Health Certificate Options**
    - **Option 1** – Certificate for dogs and cats to Japan (Form AC): Form AC contains the information required for both the owner declaration and health certificate. This document can be used to fulfill both requirements. The exporter will need to have this form endorsed by APHIS-VS.
    - **Option 2** – Export Health Certificate (Form C): Form C is recommended to be used for this purpose. The exporter will need to have this form endorsed by APHIS-VS.
    - **Option 3** – International Health Certificate (APHIS Form 7001): Another health certificate option is the APHIS Form 7001 which can be obtained from the issuing accredited veterinarian. This form must contain all the information required per Form C and needs to be endorsed by APHIS-VS.
  - **Military Personnel Options**
    - **Active Duty Military** personnel and their families may use a valid health certificate for dogs and cats only issued by a military veterinarian without APHIS endorsement.
    - **Retired Military** personnel and their families – Japan requires APHIS endorsement of a valid health certificate. APHIS-VS may endorse health certificates for pet dogs and cats for military personnel, when they meet the importing requirements of Japan on an APHIS Form 7001, Japan's Export Health Certificate (Form C), MDJ2209 Form or other suitable health certificate format.
7. **Recommended Treatments and Measures** – Japan recommends the following measures for bringing pets to Japan.
  - **Immunization** – Japan recommends that the following immunizations be given to dogs and cats that are 91 days old or older 30 days prior to their arrival in Japan (within the vaccine immunization effectiveness period).
    - **Dogs:** Distemper, contagious Hepatitis (Adenovirus type II acceptable), Parvovirus infection disease trivalent vaccine (Parainfluenza, Leptospirosis, Coronavirus).
    - **Cats:** Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Feline Calicivirus, Feline Panleukopenia trivalent vaccine.
  - **Parasite Treatment** – Japan recommends the following parasite treatments before departure (no more



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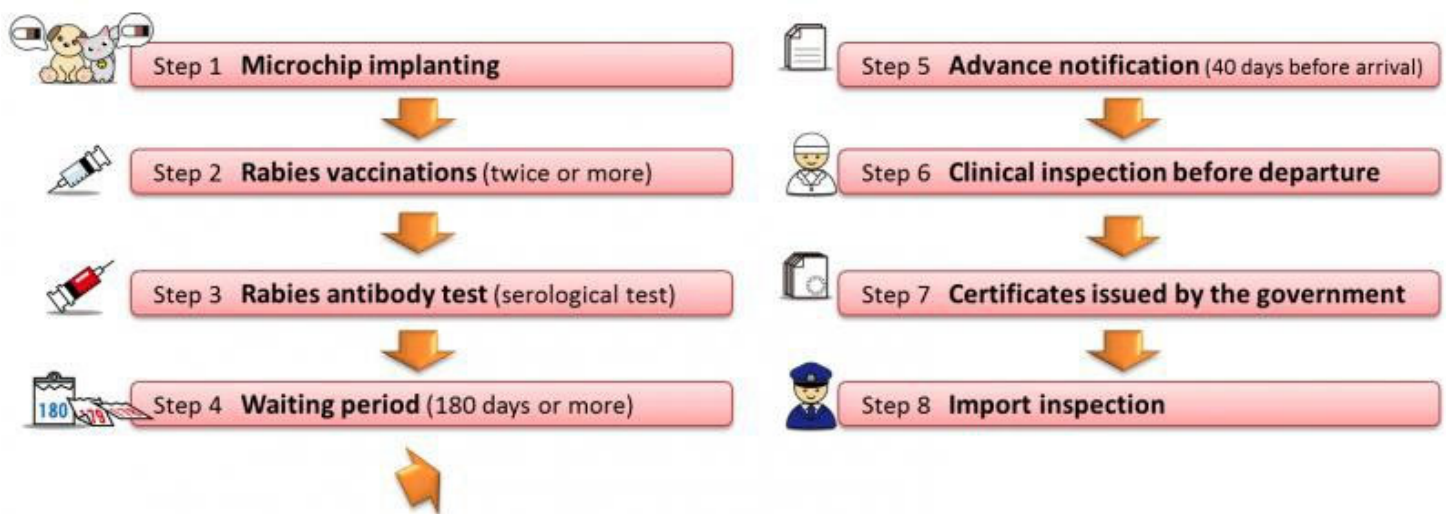
than 4 days before boarding):

- **External Parasites** – Treat with medicines effective against mites and fleas, and at the time of export have a clinical inspection to confirm that the animal is free from these parasites.
- **Internal Parasites** – Administer medicine effective against nematodes and tapeworms.

For further information and blank versions of the above listed forms, please visit the websites listed below.

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel>

<https://www.mcasiwakuni.marines.mil/PCS-to-Iwakuni/> <https://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/animal/dog/import-other.html>



The above graphic serves to briefly outline the steps involved in successfully bringing your pet to Japan with limited or no quarantine and is from the website listed above: <https://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/animal/dog/import-other.html>

This website offers the most up-to-date information regarding the import process for your pet. Do not hesitate to contact the Government of Japan Animal Quarantine Service. The staff is friendly, speak English, and is extremely helpful. They can routinely check all required documents prior to pet travel if you send them, and can help fix clerical errors, as well as address any concerns before your pets leave the United States!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the importing process of your pet to MCAS Iwakuni, please contact the Iwakuni VTF directly.

DSN: 253-6471 / JP: 0827-79-6471

Email: [dha.iwa.vtf@health.mil](mailto:dha.iwa.vtf@health.mil) FB Messenger: @IwakuniVTF



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### Required Documents

1.) PCS orders [2 copies of orders for each pet].

2.) Rabies Vaccination Certificate (DD Form 2208; 2 copies and original).

3.) Health Certificate- MDJ OP Form 2209 (Veterinary Health Certificate for Import/Export for Japan) or Japanese Quarantine Forms A and C.

It is useful to have 2 copies and the original because the Japanese officials will take the original at the port of entry. Note, the health certificate cannot be older than 10 days.

If there is a layover that will cause your health certificate to expire, then a new health certificate must be obtained. Health certificates must list last 2 rabies vaccinations including manufacturer, LOT#, and expiration date of vaccine. Health certificates must also include the Pet microchip number.

The MDJ OP Form 2209 can only be issued by a Military Veterinarian (does not require a USDA raised seal).

If a civilian veterinarian issues the health certificate (Japanese Quarantine Forms A and C), the additional requirement of obtaining a raised USDA seal from the closest USDA office on both the health certificate and the rabies certificate is mandatory. A listing of USDA offices is available on the JDVC website.

4.) If the animal travels via commercial air, the pet owner must fax or email an advance notification form to the Japanese commercial port of entry. The owner will receive a notification approval from the GOJ Animal Quarantine Service. This approval is used when checking in with the airline when departing for Japan. The owner must also show this approval to GOJ authorities upon arrival in Japan.

This approval is received commonly via e-mail. The approval will need to be printed out with at least 2 copies to be used at the port of departure and the Japanese port of entry.

5.) MDJ Form 270 (Pet Quarantine and Examination Certificate; 2 copies)- All SOFA status personnel entering Japan with a pet are required to complete a MDJ 270 (which will be provided and filled out at the port of arrival). The MDJ 270 allows your pet to be released to you for transportation to your US Military Quarantine Facility. You will be required to show your military ID along with your PCS orders. The pet's quarantine is assigned at the port of arrival and ranges from 0 to 180 days. Pets are allowed to serve their quarantine period on-base only. There is more information on pet quarantine below.

6.) USFJ Form 380 EJ (Customs Free Import or Export of Cargo or Customs Declaration of Personal Property) needed only if shipping animal as cargo.

**\*\*It is highly recommended that you attach the following information to your pet's carrier in a clear sheet protector or zip top bag: your pet's name, picture, address and phone number of an emergency contact, along with your flight itinerary and copies of the documents listed above.**



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### Pet Arrival in Japan

1. Import Inspection at port of entry
2. Contact Iwakuni VTF to schedule initial quarantine visit **within 72 hours of arrival**
3. Initial Quarantine Examination at Iwakuni VTF
4. Final Quarantine Examination at Iwakuni VTF

**Please Note:** The Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF) may require more than one visit during the 6-month quarantine period (between steps 3 and 4 listed above).

**ALL pets MUST remain ON BASE until released from quarantine by a veterinarian at the Iwakuni VTF!**

You have three options available on base for pet lodging while in quarantine:

1. Pets can stay at owner's house ON MCAS IWAKUNI, if available
2. Reserve at "Pet Friendly" TLF room ON MCAS IWAKUNI
3. Board at the Barking Lot, the pet boarding facility ON MCAS IWAKUNI
  - The Barking Lot is the only approved quarantine facility on base, unless you are residing on MCAS Iwakuni and your pets are able to stay with you. Reservations can be made 60 days prior to boarding.
  - DSN: 315-253-3588 or 0827-79-3588
  - Email: [ombiwakuni.barkinglot@usmc-mccs.org](mailto:ombiwakuni.barkinglot@usmc-mccs.org)
  - Website: <https://iwakuni.usmc-mccs.org/programs/f4659cfa-93e6-4ff9-b86d-11827065c830>



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### Pets and Housing

On-base housing units are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis based on grade and family size. Advanced application and coordination with the housing office can ensure that your family is put on a waiting list for on-base housing, but it is not guaranteed.

It is important to note that if your family is offered a mid-rise apartment appropriate for your grade and family size, and you turn the offer down because you have a dog, it is highly probable that your TLA will be terminated, and you will have to pay out of pocket to live out in town. The Housing Office will have the correct and most up-to-date information, so please contact housing if you have any questions.

According to MCASO 11101.3N (23 JUL 03), the following conditions apply to pet ownership on base:

1. Must be assigned to pet eligible quarters
2. Breeding animals is prohibited
3. No dogs are allowed in all mid-rise homes, however two spayed or neutered cats are allowed
4. Two pets are permitted in all townhomes
5. All pets are required to be micro-chipped, vaccinated, and registered with the VTF and housing office
6. No non-domestic animals (snakes, chickens, ducks, lizards, ferrets, monkeys, reptiles, tarantulas) are allowed
7. Animals shall be restrained or confined at all times, and pets must be in an approved fenced yard unless being walked
8. Animals shall be humanely treated at all times
9. Animal premises shall be kept sanitary
10. Animals shall not be permitted to disturb the peace or constitute a public nuisance or hazard

According to MCO 10570.1, full or mixed breeds of Pit Bulls, Rottweilers, and canid/wolf hybrids, Doberman Pinschers, and Chows are prohibited aboard Marine Corps Installations. There are no dog breed restrictions for entry into Japan, or for treatment at the U.S. Army Veterinary Treatment Facility on-base.



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### **Iwakuni Veterinary Treatment Facility**

Public Health Command District Japan  
BLDG 1052 Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Iwakuni

The Iwakuni VTF is a limited-service Veterinary Clinic whose primary missions are providing comprehensive care to Military Working Dogs, privately owned animals, addressing public health concerns, and conducting food inspections.

We offer the following services for privately owned pets in support of SOFA status personnel at MCAS Iwakuni:

- Wellness examinations
- Immunizations
- Health certificates
- Prescription re-fills
- Government of Japan Pet Quarantine Management
- Pet NEO Packet Guidance and preparedness
- Routine surgeries (Spays/Neuters, Dental Cleanings, Mass removals)
- Over the counter product sales (coat care, dental hygiene, flea/tick and heartworm prevention medications)
- Other routine services as needed/requested

### **HOURS OF OPERATION**

Monday: 0800-1200; 1400-1600

Tuesday: 0800-1200; 1300-1600

Wednesday: 0800-1200; 1300-1600

Thursday: 0800-1200; 1300-1500

Friday: 0800-1200; 1300-1600

Please feel free to contact us for appointments and questions:

**COMM:** 0827-79-6471

**DSN:** 315-253-6471

**From USA:** 011-81-827-79-6471

**Email:** dha.iwa.vtf@health.mil

**Facebook:** IWAKUNI VETERINARY TREATMENT FACILITY

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